2/12/70

Mr. Ed Planer
WDSU-TV
520 Royal St.,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Ed,

As I told you, I will continue to keep you informed about what I learn of your Oswald footage and what relates to it. While my major interests at the moment are in other areas, as I can I work on this. I believe I sent you a copy of my letter to the Secret Service embodying what I had detected.

In response, they made available to me what I take to be the original footage they got from you. It runs 41 ~~minutes~~ seconds and deals with his picketing of the ITM only. It is by far the clearest film of this I have seen. I did not have time to make a frame-by-frame comparison and have not found time because I do not believe it has been further edited. This reel, however, was never given to the Warren Commission. It was, instead, given the spliced version of all your footage, which does provoke wonder. And if they had it, why did they go back and get it all over again? There is a further possibility, that this is, as it is labelled, your original film, and they made and gave you copies.

This film has a single set of sprocket holes. It also has what I believe is called a timing notch. It does not have the timing indication following the leader.

Of the prints you supplied, the files contain prints of but three. This does interest me very much, because you supplied 17, according to the reports of which I've sent you copies, and FBI agents carried and showed as many as six different prints to various witnesses. One of my chief (but not my only) interest here is in the other person or persons with Oswald, besides Steele. The description with this footage also is in the plural. I now have many other statements saying the same thing, that on the day you filmed him and on preceeding days (on which he did the same thing without attracting attention, more days than the government says) there were at least two men with him.

I know of one sequence the FBI used to show witnesses of which there is no single-frame enlargement. When you did supply it, I can only wonder, again, why it is not in the files. Here I may want to get an enlargement. To this end, I'd appreciate it if you would send me a brief note with your permission and the conditions you stipulated. I'll observe them, as you know. Quite properly, the government will not copy this for me without your permission. I may want to copy the entire 41 second because it is so much clearer. There remains the possibility this film will have further court use.

Enclosed are two copies of an FBI report, or Agent Logan's interview with Sara Rotman. One is for him, if he is interested, the other for your files.

There are errors in it. For example, it could not have been after Oswald was in your studios 8/16/63 that he phoned to ask when you'd like him to put on his show. Once again, I can only wonder why the FBI said this when it knew it could not be so. That is the day you did film him at the old ITM. There is no official record and no other indication he did any picketing after he was filmed and aired doing it. Of course, at the time these things happened, no one had any special reason to remember them, but if Bern has any recollections at all, I would appreciate it if he would inform me. Especially if anyone was with him.

The day Oswald was arrested, 8/9/63, there were at least three photographers who filmed him. Two got the arrest on 8 mm. I have interviewed both. Each says identically the same thing, that he gave the FBI his original footage and got back an edited version. I have a copy of one of these. The third case was kept out of all official records. In these two cases, the Warren Commission was not aware that the FBI had the film and the film is not now in their files. In neither case did the FBI tell the Commission it had the footage and in one case it did not even file a report on the film being given to it. In the third case, it interviewed the witness who provides this information but made no record of it. This man, a Cuban, saw Oswald outside the Maison Blanche Bldg. before Bringuier attacked him. At that time he saw "a strange-looking Latin- American type person around 25&30 years old who was a little taller than Oswald and who weighed close to 200 pounds, standing in front of the Maison Blanche Building with a camera and taking pictures of Oswald and other people..." This description is reminiscent of Dean Andrews' statement a man who could have gone to fist-city was with Oswald and is very close to the description Jesse Core gave me of a man he saw with Oswald outside the old ITM the day you filmed him - and not in your film.

Other things I have established as fact since I saw you that may, in the future, interest you are these: the NO Police Department Intelligence Unit had files on both Oswald and Ferrie before the assassination, made the Oswald file immediately available to the Dallas Police (which fed almost none of it back to the Warren Commission), and apparently Garrison never could find either file. The only description of the Ferrie file I have is that it related to his "Cuban activities".

I have not yet seen Bringuier's book. I've heard of it and that he includes the defamations of me he once distributed in N.O. These are false. If I were in a position to sue, I couldn't because they are immune. However, my interests in him and his racist activities (which never seem to interest either the N.O. media or the Republican Party, which "honors" him), are undiminished. His connection with Borgis is closer than I indicated in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. Aside from his twisted thinking, which corrupts everything in his mind, he does have some important fact the government has seen fit to keep out of all official records. One of these is the license number of a car in which a man seen with "Oswald" was observed on Decatur Street. He was asked by people in Pena's to phone this to the FBI/ I believe the man described as Oswald was not. But the lead to those with him could be important, if you can ever get this number from Bringuier.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg